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OLC 78-3802

27 December 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Breakfast with Senator Gary Hart (D., Colo.) -  
27 December 1978

1. At the Director's invitation, Senator Gary Hart came to breakfast with him, the DDCI and the undersigned prior to his CIA briefing on Chinese Defense Forces. Senator Hart is travelling with Senators Nunn and Glenn to the Western Pacific beginning 3 January 1979. After an appropriate exchange of amenities, Senator Hart made some interesting observations about prospects for the Intelligence Community in the Senate in the 96th Congress:

a. He urged the DCI to concentrate on the collection mix in the FY 80 budget request in his testimony before the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence. He noted that it was altogether too easy for the Director's testimony to become stalled on the question of the strategic balance between the U.S. and the USSR and never get to the key questions of our intelligence requirements for SALT verification, etc., and the collection mix requested in the President's budget to accomplish same. It was his view that the Intelligence Community could expect a good deal of support from the Senate if it asked for budgetary help in this fashion.

b. He noted a perceptible shift to the middle in opinion in the Senate and on the SSCI in particular. He felt that the Committee this year would be more inclined to meet the DCI's needs to do the collection job if he would only ask for their help.

He noted that the Charters legislation is the last vestige of the Church Committee reforms and by implication indicated that the legislation might not have that much support this year. Opinion has shifted toward giving the DCI what he needs to do the intelligence job.

c. In response to a question, he stated that although it was his turn by the rules to go off the Committee, he did not know whether he would be required to do so. If he had his way, he would prefer to stay and take the Budget Subcommittee now open because of Senator Hathaway's defeat.

d. He supports the notion of seeking a modification to the Hughes-Ryan amendment. He thought that the progress made by the Intelligence Committee in establishing oversight would allow the House and Senate to restrict the numbers of other committees to which the Community would have to report on Hughes-Ryan questions. He agreed to help in an effort to restructure Hughes-Ryan, and even indicated an outright repeal might be possible.

(N.B. In a subsequent conversation between Bill Miller and the undersigned, Miller suggested how a modification of Hughes-Ryan might be effected. He suggested that the DCI convene a meeting involving Chairman Bayh and Vice Chairman Goldwater with the Senate Leadership (Byrd and Baker) and including Senators Church and Stennis and to make a formal appeal to revise Hughes-Ryan.)

Senator Hart suggested that the Director focus on this issue when he comes to Capitol Hill to testify this coming year.

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Distribution:

- 1 - DCI
- 1 - DDCI
- 1 - ER
- 1 - DDO
- 1 - DDO/CA
- 1 - OLC Subject
- 1 - OLC Chrono

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